The supervisor conspired with the father against the son, warning the father that Mr. Cooper probably had no intention of going home to stay, and intended to begin a lecture tour as soon as possible. He urged the father to "come right down and I will do all I can to help you to get him to go home," and offered to concoct a lie that a portion of Mr. Cooper's pay had had to be withheld -- "that we were a little short" -- in order to deprive him of the means of going away.

The father seems to have been at once authoritarian and sickly. Mr. Cooper wrote Dr. Stead regarding his problems with his father, in particular his frustration at his father's "bossing." According to the son, the father's "determination to boss me" has given the latter "more trouble ... than by all the ministerial difficulties that fall to his lot" and possibly "wrecked" both their lives. He tries to enlist Dr. Stead on his behalf, to influence his family to allow him more freedom "to complete and execute my will," and to loan him "enough money to carry through my lecture, possibly in Toronto."

In a letter to Dr. C.K. Clarke of December 12 1910 Mr. Cooper's father expressed misgivings about how much his son's doctors had been influenced by information from himself. Dr. Clarke replied on December 13 merely that the young man was suffering from dementia praecox ("a well defined mental disease") and that his prognosis was "very doubtful." The father wrote Clarke again on January 9, 1911, and stating more explicitly his concern that his previous information was in its "very nature ... a one-sided statement -- not a biography so much as a selection of peculiarities." The same could be said of so many case histories! He proceeded to list his son's many virtues, his intelligence, his capacity for fiercely loyal friendship, his generosity, his thoughtfulness, etc.

This second letter to Dr. Clarke seems to have been precipitated by statements that Dr. Stead, who had examined Mr. Cooper for the Conference Report, made in front of the young man's mother and the mother's close friend, a professor at the university. Stead had described Mr. Cooper as "inferior in native and acquired endowment." The father was as offended by this as the mother, and insisted that "in the range of his sympathies and interests [his son] was superior rather than inferior." Having heard nothing from his son, and confident that his son would have forgiven him by now, he wondered if his letters had intercepted, as "not considered passable" [sic]. Of course, they had. Clarke replied by asking him to ignore the issue of his son's resentment